

**SHADE TREE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 11, 2020**

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 p.m. via Zoom due to COVID-19

Members in Attendance: K. Halpin, S. Marr, S. McDonald, G. Pohorely, D. Butler
Absent:

MINUTES:

Regular Meeting

The Washington Borough Shade Tree Commission Meeting was called to order and the “Open Public Meetings Act” read into the Record. The meeting was duly advertised and posted on the Bulletin Board for Thursday, June 11, 2020. A Motion was made by S. McDonald and seconded by S. Marr that the minutes be approved for the meeting of March 9, 2020.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Arbor Day: May/June 2020 Newsletter - This will be filed for future reference.
2. Tree City USA Bulletin: March/April 2020 “Trees are for the Birds or Should Be” - This will be filed for future reference.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Arbor Day Purchase – The Silky Dogwood and Arrowwood Seedling orders for Arbor Day and Earth Day were cancelled due to the coronavirus. The New Jersey Forest Service Nursey informed the Shade Tree Commission that a (\$40.00) refund check will be sent to the Borough, since the seedlings were previously paid on Purchase Order #20200154.
2. 17 Lambert St. – The property owner (Aileen Hodgskin) was instructed to have the soil tested before planting (2) replacement trees in the right-of-way area. She was also given a copy of Trees for New Jersey Streets to help make her selection. The owners are aware that the trees need to be 1 ½” to 2” caliber and planted in the right-of-way area of their property. The Commissioners approved the written request that the owners are willing to plant the trees at their own expense. There was no time limit set for the owners to replace the trees but the Commission will revisit this topic at a later date.
3. Carlton Avenue Sidewalk Replacement – K. Halpin was not able to contact the Borough Engineer, Kevin Smith. This issue will be discussed at a later date.
4. Grand Avenue Streetscape project – The Borough Engineer, Kevin Smith was not available for comment. This topic will be discussed at a later date. Some of the issues include trees that were planted too deep and replacing others.

5. 35 Alvin Sloan Ave.- A dead Maple tree was removed by the DPW. The stump will be placed on the maintenance list.
6. 38 North Pickle Ave.- A storm damaged tree was removed by the DPW. The stump will be placed on the maintenance list.
7. 1 Oakwood Terrace – The property owner (Joseph Armellino) requested to have a tree stump removed from his property. Mr. Armellino’s Maple tree was removed in 2018 but the stump remained for a later date, due to a limited budget. This location will be on the maintenance list in order to complete the work from 2018.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Downtown Business District – Some business owners requested to have the street trees trimmed in order to improve the visibility of their stores. K. Halpin commented that the trees can only be elevated. It was not determined when maintenance would be done downtown. However, S. Marr noted that there was a dead tree in front of the empty carpet store that needs to be removed. K. Halpin suggested that the DPW could remove it when they are available. The Borough Manager will be contacted to convey this request to DPW Supervisor, Jonathan James.
2. 52 Alvin Sloan Ave.- Homeowner (Kevin Racek) removed (2) Maple trees from the right-of-way area of the property. A letter was sent to Mr. Racek stating the options for violating the Shade Tree Ordinance #76-6. Mr. Racek was not aware of the Ordinance and was planning to replace the trees. S. McDonald met with the owner and advised him that the replacements need to be in a right-of-way location and the diameters must be 2 ½” caliber. Mr. Racek was provided a list of street trees to help with his selection. There was no time limit set for the owner to replace the (2) trees but the Commission will revisit this topic at a later date.
3. 60 Alvin Sloan Ave. - A dead tree was noted in the right-of-way of the property. A letter was sent to the owners stating that the tree would be removed at the Borough’s expense. The property owner (Amy Donlon) responded to the letter and inquired about a replacement tree. This location will be placed on the list for replacement trees when the Shade Tree Commission has an opportunity to plant trees in town.
4. Washington Meadows Tree Evaluation – S. McDonald noted numerous declining trees in the Alvin Sloan and Lambert St. development. The Commission agreed to have that area evaluated for the health and maintenance of the street trees. Quote requests will be sent for further discussion at the July meeting.
5. 130 Sunrise Terrace – Homeowner (Susan York) reported a large fallen branch from a possible declining tree in the right-of-way. S. Marr visited the location and noted that the tree needed immediate attention. It appeared to be a potential hazard. The DPW was able to remove the tree before any additional issues occurred. The stump will be removed at a later date when a professional job maintenance is scheduled.
6. 113 Belvidere Ave. – Homeowner (Christopher Cannavo) submitted a letter to the Shade Tree Commission stating that the Okame Cherry tree he planted in 2017 had died. Mr. Cannavo will be replacing the tree at his own expense.

7. Tree Removal Near PNC Bank – Sunshine had replaced Pear trees near the bank in 2019. However, 3 Pear trees near the vicinity of PNC have died. K. Halpin contacted Jeff from Sunshine Tree & Landscape, who agreed to replace them when they are available.
8. Treatment for Ash Trees – The Shade Tree Commissioners discussed the increasing number of Ash trees that appear to be declining. K. Halpin suggested that the Commission request quotes on preventative treatments to discourage infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer. S. Marr created a separate list of all Ash trees from the Street Tree Inventory. This topic will be discussed when the quotes are submitted.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business before the Commission, it was moved by S. Marr and seconded by S. McDonald that the meeting be adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Ayes: 5, Nays: 0
Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Fleming